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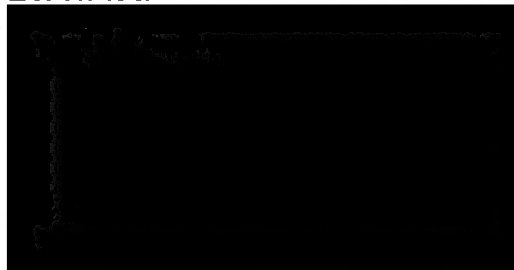
5 November 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Standing Committee of Individuals for "Missing in Action" and "Prisoner" Cases.

1. On Thursday, November 4, 1954, a meeting was held to determine what action should be taken on the attached proposal prepared by the FE Division for the Inspector General covering recommendations on the handling of "Missing in Action" and "Prisoner" cases. The following individuals were in attendance:

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the originator of the memorandum gave a short background on the reason for this proposal. He pointed out that the IG criticized the Division and particularly the Branch and case officer for not advising the IG what action was being taken on the [redacted] case and the fact that all concerned components of the Agency were not brought into the picture.

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[redacted] advised that he had felt that very extensive coordination had been made but evidently this did not satisfy the IG. He pointed out that there was definite need for the establishment of one central point that the Branch and case officer could contact on these types of cases and be assured that complete coordination had been effected.

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2. [redacted] of the Personnel Office advised that under CFR 5.4, the Office of Personnel had primary responsibility for handling "Missing in Action" cases. He felt that they had done an excellent job on all cases they had handled so far and had particularly stressed that all components of the Agency had been brought into the picture when needed.

3. Representatives from the Security Office and the Division pointed out numerous examples of the various complications that arise in handling these types of cases and in general it was agreed that the Office of Personnel should have the responsibility for handling, coordinating and following up all "Missing in Action" cases. All representatives present agreed on the following points:

a. That it was not proper to forward the attached memorandum to the Inspector General.

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b. That while the Personnel Office was doing a creditable job in handling "Missing in Action" and "Prisoner" cases, there were certain loose ends that had to be tied together.

c. That there was a definite need for a central point of contact to be established to assure that complete coordination was effected.

d. That the only way to tie together all loose ends was that when a "Missing in Action" case developed, an initial meeting of representatives from responsible components of the Agency be called by the Office of Personnel to assure completed action.

e. That the Branch Chief and Case Officer, because of the personal relationship, would always be personally interested in these types of cases even though they are being handled by other Agency offices.

f. That CFR 5.4 gave responsibility to the Personnel Office on "Missing in Action" cases only to staff employees and staff agents but did not cover contract agents.

g. That the proposed regulations should provide for coverage of contract agents either by the Personnel Office, if security and cover permits, or by the establishment of a responsible authority within DB/P.

4. [REDACTED] then pointed out that two regulations were now in process of coordination throughout the Agency which would resolve these problems. The regulations are (a) Regulation 20-700, Missing in Action, and (b) Regulation 20-655 (?), Employee Emergency. While none of those present had seen either of these regulations, it was agreed from the discussion by Mr. [REDACTED] of the contents of the regulation that they probably, after revision, would meet our requirements. It was finally agreed, therefore, that the Office of Personnel would revise the proposed regulations to cover the points that were discussed in this meeting and that the regulations would then be distributed to those present for comments. These individuals would review the regulation, see if it fitted all our needs and a second meeting would be held on Wednesday, November 10th, at which time all comments would be discussed on the personnel regulations and a determination made as to whether they satisfied our requirements.

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[REDACTED]
Distributions:

1 Each individual present

1 [REDACTED] Chrono

No attachment

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